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*A LETTER FROM*  
THE  
MOST REVEREND JOHN IRELAND,  
*Archbishop of St. Paul*  
TO  
MISS KATHERINE HUGHES

Author of:  
"Father Lacombe" The Black-Robe Voyageur.

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*St. Paul, April 7, 1911.*

MISS KATHERINE HUGHES,

Dear Miss Hughes,

You are doing a good and great work, for which tens of thousands will thank you, in writing the life of Father Lacombe.

Father Lacombe is one of the most remarkable men—decidedly the most remarkable priest—Western America has ever seen. His long career as a missionary, beginning away back in 1849, continuing even unto our own days, and destined we fondly hope, to continue into many years to come, has been a special gift of Providence to country and to church, on account of his fruitful personal labours, and no less on

account of the wholesome inspirations arising from it — bidding others to approximate, though they may not attain, the high ideal which he not only held before his mind, but which he actually realized in his own self. The love of God and of souls was throughout his career the dominant motive in all he thought, in all he did, in all he suffered. Cooperating with this, exalted and intensified with it, were the natural gifts rarely seen on such high planes of mind and heart — intelligence, practical sense, utter forgetfulness of self, utter good will in the service of others. Not only he willed much, and planned much, but — a good fortune not always coming to most worthy ambitions — he accomplished much.

As the apostle and civilizer of savage tribes, as the explorer of vast wildernesses, and the pathfinder of incoming new populations, he has been without an equal. His name is linked indissolubly with the early history of Western Canada as that of one of its most illustrious founders: his fame, and the sweet odour of his apostolic zeal and good works should be made to spread over the whole continent of America. Your book will tell of Father Lacombe's virtues and exploits: I thank you for having written it.

Sincerely,

JOHN IRELAND,

*Archbishop of St. Paul.*